THE SECOND DAY.

20th February 1914.

The Assembly met at 11 A. M. on Friday, the 20th February 1914.

The Chief Secretary to Government announced that the Members of the Kottayam Division met the previous day under the presidency of the Dewan Peishkar, Kottayam, and elected, by a majority of votes, Mr. K. G. Parameswara Menon, B. A., B. L., and the Members of the Padmanabhapuram Division also met under the presidency their Dewan Peishkar and elected Mr. A. M. Kumara Pillai, B. A., B. L., for the vacant seats in the Legislative Council, and that His Highness the Maha Raja would, in due course, appoint them as Members of the Legislative Council.

The consideration of the subjects, as per the list distributed to the Members on the previous day, was begun.

I.—MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

(1) Land Revenue.

1. The desirability of permitting the Sreepandaravagai ryots to pay the paddy tax due by them in money at the prevailing market rate.

Mr. A. Aiyamperumal Pillai (Member, Tovala taluk) said that the tax due to the *Sree Pandaravagai* was fixed in kind and was being paid as such. In many instances, the ryots were willing to pay, in the first instance, the money value of the tax due, calculated at the market rate, but the authorities would not accept it until demand notices were issued ; and then the value of such notices were also required to be paid. The Member requested that arrangements might be made to send down lists of *nirak* (market) rates to the *pakuthi* cutcherries on the 5th of every kist month and that such of the ryots as were willing be permitted to pay in money, at the market rates obtaining at the time, the tax due, without a demand notice. He contended that demand notices should be issued and the fees recovered only in the case of those ryots who failed to pay the tax before the close of the kist month.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar will be requested to enquire into the matter, consult the leading ryots, and report.

2. The commutation of the paddy tax into money in the proverthies of Attingal and Edakode.

Mr. Kanakku Nilakantan Parameswaran (Member, Chirayinkil taluk) said that the subject was one that had been represented by him at the Fourth Session of the Assembly and the reply then given was that, during the minority of Her Highness the Senior Rani, the Government were not prepared to make substantial changes in the collection of Her Highness' revenue which were likely to reduce her income. The Member said that, though the Government were in the position of a trustee, they practically administered the revenue for the Sreepadom Palace, and all the revenue laws of the Sirkar were equally applicable to the Sreepadom lands. Further, with the abolition, in 1081, of the land-tax in kind in the case of the Sirkar lands, one-fourth of the paddy tax on the Sreepadom lands was also commuted into money at the new rate of 11 chs. per para. The Member felt sure that it was effected through the kind intervention of the Government. At present, out of the entire tax, one-fourth was payable at the old *vilatharam* of 6 chs. per para and another one-fourth at

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11 chs. per para. The balance of one-half had alone to be paid in paddy. Now that the minority of Her Highness the Senior Rani was over, he prayed that the Government might be pleased to commute the remaining one-half also into money at 11 chs. per para and thus grant the Sreepadom ryots the long-wished for relief, in common with the other subjects of the State.

Dewan's reply.—The ryots should memorialise Her Highness the Senior Rani if they think they have any grievance. The Government cannot interfere.

3. The necessity for mentioning the survey numbers of properties in the tax-receipts granted to the ryots by Revenue officers.

Mr. Kanakku Chempakaraman Padmanabhan (Member, Karunagappalli taluk) said that, in the tax-receipts granted by Revenue officers, the survey numbers on which the tax was paid were not shown, and that, in consequence, the ryots were experiencing great difficulty in proving their possession of the lands. For instance, the lands covered by the patta in A's name might be in the enjoyment of three persons, B, C and D. The tax-receipts would only show the several amounts paid by B, C and D. If C trespassed on the land in the enjoyment of B and the latter preferred a criminal complaint, the court either dismissed the complaint or referred the parties to the civil courts for redress, on the ground of want of clear evidence as to possession. That was the case in the majority of instances. After the revenue settlement, the Government were insisting on the ryots specifying the survey numbers in the deeds relating to transactions affecting immovable property. That being so, the Member thought it was the more necessary that the Government should insist on the survey numbers being mentioned in the receipts granted by their officers for tax paid. For want of such an arrangement, the number of cases of criminal trespass, dacoity, assault and even murder was on the increase, and the change proposed would tend to considerably reduce such crimes. It would also afford to owners of properties indisputable evidence as to their actual possession. He therefore requested that arrangements might be made to show the survey numbers also in the tax-receipts.

[By the direction of the Dewan, Mr. R. Mahadeva Iyer, Dewan Peishkar on special duty, explained to the Member that, at present, even the *thandapers*, the most important of the revenue accounts, did not contain information about survey numbers and the tax payable on them. That being so, it would be difficult now to mention the survey numbers in the receipts. But, after a time, when the *thandapers* were written up fully, it would be possible to do so without much difficulty.]

The Member, continuing, said that, in the interests of the tax-paying ryots, the change proposed was very necessary, and he submitted a sample form of the tax-receipt as he would have it.

Dewan's reply.—The Division Peishkars and the Superintendent of the Devikulam Division will be asked to enquire into and report on the evils complained of by the Member and also say if the suggestion of the Member is practicable.

4. Certain matters connected with the treatment of poramboke lands on the sides of the Neyyar river.

Mr. Matheran Kesavan (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) first conveyed to the Dewan the thanks of the people of the taluk for the action taken in regard to the treatment of the lands on the sides of the Neyyar river, by G. O. No. 341/L. R. & F., dated the 23rd December 1913. But, in carrying out the orders of the Government, certain matters required attention, which were being overlooked by the local officers, and he wished to detail them one by one.

(1) The G. O. required only the level of the lands and the age of the trees standing thereon to be considered in deciding whether any land was a recent accretion or not. He said that the *measurement* should also be taken into account. Under para 34 of the demarcation rules, the stones had been planted far in the interior of the

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